REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11-13, 15, 16, 22, 24, and 25 were rejected. Claims 3-5, 8-10, 14, 17-21, and 23 were objected to. The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowability of claims 3-5, 8-10, 14, 17-21, and 23 if amended to incorporate base and intervening claim limitations. Independent claims 1, 6, 15, 22, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dempsey (U.S. 6,169,726).

The independent claims 1, 14, 20, 21, 22, 29, and 39 variably recite multiple monitors. None of the cited references are believed to teach or suggest at least this element.

Dempsey describes a time based failover process. "If it is determined that the main processor 22 of designated active controller A 20 has been running for the predetermined period of time (a YES response in step 210), the designated active controller A 20 will be switched in the following manner with the designated standby controller B 30 to prevent any potential loss of customer services. In step 220, the main processor 22 of designated active controller A 20 stops sending messages to AIU 50. After a predetermined time period has elapsed, the main processor 22 of designated active controller A 20 stops running in step 230. The time period for the delay between steps 220 and 230 may correspond to the time required for communication processor 24 to send any messages to AIU 50 in accordance with instructions from main processor 22." (Column 5, Line 65 – Column 6, Line 8)

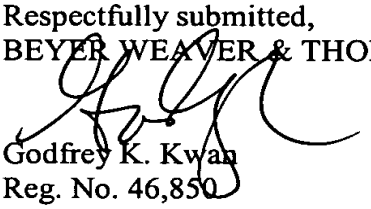
Dempsey describes a time based system and not a system that uses multiple monitors. Dempsey uses a single monitor AIU 50 for controllers A and B (Figure 1). A time based system is noted in the Background section (page 3, lines 6-13) of the present application. "The second general category of failure detection and switching circuits use hardware based methods where hardware based methods are those that use a control circuit to monitor status signals from the controllers. The status signals from the controllers indicate the state of the controller's operation and determine whether a switchover of active control is required. The control circuits that monitor the controllers often employ some form of control logic and a timer circuit to which the controllers must regularly respond to indicate that it is still active and in control."

By contrast, the independent claims variably recite multiple monitors. According to various embodiments, having multiple monitors allows individual controllers to be inserted or

removed during system operation. In one example, "both hardware and software based monitor and control systems are often used is systems in dual processing environments. In such a situation the processors are usually mounted on the same board and they are not designed to be inserted or removed during operation of the system. Thus the monitor and control system does not contemplate these situations. The systems therefore do not reflect the functionality associated with rack based computer systems where redundant controllers may be located on separate boards that are likely to be removed during the operation of the computer." (Page 3, Lines 19-23).

In light of the above remarks relating to the independent claims, the remaining dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons noted above. Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



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